

# PRI

This little impudent hardware-man turns into ridicule the direful apprehensions of the whole kingdom, *priding himself* as the cause of them. *Swift's Miscel.*

**PRIE.** *n. f.* I suppose an old name of privet.

Lop poplar and fallow, elm, maple and *prie*,  
Wel faved from cattle, till summer to lie. *Tusser.*

**PRIEF** for *prose*. *Spenser.*

**PRIER.** *n. f.* [from *pry*.] One who enquires too narrowly.

**PRIEST.** *n. f.* [from *pry*, Sax. *præste*, Fr.]

1. One who officiates in sacred offices.

I'll to the vicar,

Bring you the maid, you shall not lack a *priest*. *Shakep.*

The high *priest* shall not uncover his head. *Lev. xxi. 10.*

Our practice of finging differs from the practice of David,  
the *priests* and Levites. *Peabam.*

These pray's I thy *priest* before thee bring. *Milton.*

2. One of the second order in the hierarchy, above a deacon,  
below a bishop.

No neighbours, but a few poor simple clowns,  
Honest and true, with a well-meaning *priest*. *Rowe.*

**PRIESTCRAFT.** *n. f.* [from *priest* and *craft*.] Religious frauds;  
management of wicked priests to gain power.

Puzzle has half a dozen common-place topics; though  
the debate be about Doway, his discourse runs upon bigotry  
and *priestcraft*. *Speclator.*

From *priestcraft* happily set free,  
Lo! ev'ry finish'd son returns to thee. *Pope.*

**PRIESTESS.** *n. f.* [from *priest*.] A woman who officiated in  
heaven rites.

Then too, our mighty sire, thou stood'st disarm'd,  
When thy rap soul the lovely *priestess* charm'd,  
That Rome's high founder bore. *Addison.*

These two, being the sons of a lady who was *priestess* to  
Juno, drew their mother's chariot to the temple. *Speclator.*

She as *priestess* knows the rites,  
Wherein the God of earth delights. *Swift's Miscel.*

Th' inferior *priestess*, at her altar's side,  
Trembling, begins the sacred rites of pride. *Pope.*

**PRIESTHOOD.** *n. f.* [from *priest*.]

1. The office and character of a priest.

Jeroboam is reproved, because he took the *priesthood* from  
the tribe of Levi. *Whitgift.*

The *priesthood* hath in all nations, and all religions, been  
held highly venerable. *Athenbury's Sermons.*

2. The order of men set apart for holy offices.

Is your *priesthood* grown so peremptory? *Shakep.*

He pretends, that I have fallen foul on *priesthood*. *Dryden.*

3. The second order of the hierarchy. See **PRIEST.**

**PRIESTLINESS.** *n. f.* [from *priestly*.] The appearance or man-  
ner of a priest.

**PRIESTLY.** *adj.* [from *priest*.] Becoming a priest; sacerdotal;  
belonging to a priest.

In the Jewish church, none that was blind or lame was  
capable of the *priestly* office. *South's Sermons.*

How can incest suit with holiness,  
Or *priestly* orders with a princely state? *Dryden.*

**PRIESTRIDEN.** *adj.* [from *priest* and *riden*.] Managed or go-  
vern'd by priests.

Such a cant of high-church and persecution, and being  
*priestriden*. *Swift.*

**TO PRIEVE** for *prove*. *Spenser.*

**PRIG.** *n. f.* [A cant word derived perhaps from *prick*, as he  
*pricks* up, he is *prig*; or from *pricked*, an epithet of re-  
proach bestowed upon the presbyterian teachers.] A pert,  
conceited, saucy, pragmatical, little fellow.

The little man concluded, with calling monsieur Mcnager  
an insignificant *prig*. *Speclator*, N° 482.

There have I seen some active *prigs*,  
To shew his parts, bestride a twig. *Swift's Miscel.*

**PRILL.** *n. f.* A bird or turbot. *Ainsworth.*

**PRIM.** *adj.* [by contraction from *primitive*.] Formal; precise;  
affectedly nice.

A ball of new dropt horse's dung,  
Mingling with apples in the throng,  
Said to the pippin, plump and *prim*,  
See, brother, how we apples swim. *Swift's Miscel.*

**TO PRIM.** *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To deck up precisely;  
to form to an affected nicety.

**PRIMACY.** *n. f.* [from *primus*, Fr. *primatus*, Lat.] The  
chief ecclesiastical station.

When he had now the *primacy* in his own hand, he thought  
he should be to blame if he did not apply remedies. *Clarend.*

**PRIMAGE.** *n. f.* The freight of a ship. *Ainsworth.*

**PRIMAL.** *adj.* [from *primus*, Lat.] First. A word not in use, but  
very commodious for poetry.

It hath been taught us from the *primal* state,  
That he, which is, was with'd, until he were. *Shakep.*

Oh! my offence is rank, it smells to heav'n,  
It hath the *primal*, eldest curse upon't. *Shakep.*

**PRIMARILY.** *adv.* [from *primary*.] Originally; in the first  
intention; in the first place.

In fevers, where the heart *primarily* suffereth, we apply  
medicines unto the wrists. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

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These considerations so exactly suiting the parable of the  
wedding-supper to this spiritual banquet of the gospel, if it  
does not *primarily*, and in its first design, intend it; yet cer-  
tainly it may, with greater advantage of resemblance, be ap-  
plied to it, than to any other duty. *South's Sermons.*

**PRIMARINESS.** *n. f.* [from *primary*.] The state of being first  
in act or intention.

That which is peculiar, must be taken from the *primari-  
ness* and secondariness of the perception. *Norris.*

**PRIMARY.** *adj.* [from *primarius*, Lat.]

1. First in intention.

The figurative notation of this word, and not the *primary*  
or literal, belongs to this place. *Hanmond.*

2. Original; first.

Before that beginning, there was neither *primary* matter to  
be informed, nor form to inform, nor any being but the  
eternal. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

When the ruins both *primary* and secondary were settled,  
the waters of the abyss began to settle too. *Burnet.*

These I call original or *primary* qualities of body, which  
produce simple ideas in us, viz. solidity, extension, figure  
and motion. *Locke.*

3. First in dignity; chief; principal.

As the six *primary* planets revolve about him, so the se-  
condary ones are moved about them in the same isothermal  
proportion of their periodical motions to their orbs. *Boutly.*

**PRIMATE.** *n. f.* [from *primatus*, Fr. *primas*, Lat.] The chief eccle-  
siastick.

When the power of the church was first established, the  
archbishops of Canterbury and York had then no prehe-  
minence one over the other; the former being *primate* over the  
Southern, as the latter was over the Northern parts. *Aylmer.*

The late and present *primate*, and the lord archbishop of  
Dublin hath left memorials of his bounty. *Swift.*

**PRIMATESHIP.** *n. f.* [from *primate*.] The dignity or office  
of a primate.

**PRIME.** *n. f.* [from *primus*, Lat.]

1. The first part of the day; the dawn; the morning.

His larum bell might loud and wide be heard  
When cause requir'd, but never out of time,  
Early and late it rung at evening and at *prime*. *Spenser.*

Sure pledge of day, that crown'd the smiling morn  
With thy bright circle, praise him in thy sphere  
While day awakes, that sweet hour of *prime*. *Milton.*

2. The beginning; the early days.

Quickly fundry arts mechanical were found out in the very  
*prime* of the world. *Hooker*, b. i. f. 10.

3. The best part.

Give no more to ev'ry guest,  
Than he's able to digest,  
Give him always of the *prime*,  
And but little at a time. *Swift.*

4. The spring of life; the height of health, strength or beauty.

Make haste, sweet love, whilst it is *prime*,  
For none can call again the passed time. *Spenser.*

Will she yet debate her eyes on me,  
That crop the golden *prime* of this sweet prince,  
And made her widow to a woful bed? *Shakep. Rich. III.*

Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, virtue, all  
That happiness and *prime* can happy call. *Shakep.*

Likeliest the seem'd to Ceres in her *prime*. *Milton.*

No poet ever sweetly sung,  
Unless he were, like Phœbus, young;  
Nor ever nymph inspir'd to rhyme,  
Unless, like Venus, in her *prime*. *Swift.*

Short were her marriage joys; for in the *prime*  
Of youth, her lord expir'd before his time. *Dryden.*

5. Spring.

Hope waits upon the flow'ry *prime*,  
And summer, though it be less gay,  
Yet is not look'd on as a time  
Of declination or decay. *Wallis.*

The poet and his theme in spite of time,  
For ever young enjoys an endless *prime*. *Granville.*

6. The height of perfection.

The plants which now appear in the most different seasons,  
would have been all in *prime*, and flourishing together at the  
same time. *Woodward.*

7. The first canonical hour.

8. The first part; the beginning: as, the *prime* of the moon.

**PRIME.** *adj.* [from *primus*, Lat.]

1. Early; blooming.

His starry helm unbuck'd, shew'd him *prime*  
In manhood, where youth ended. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

2. Principal; first rate.

Divers of *prime* quality, in several counties, were, for re-  
fusing to pay the same, committed to prison. *Clarendon.*

Nor can I think, that God will so destroy  
We his *prime* creatures dignify'd so high. *Milton.*

Humility and resignation are our *prime* virtues. *Dryden.*

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3. First; original.

We smother'd  
The most replenish'd sweet work of nature,  
That from the *prime* creation e'er she fram'd. *Shakep.*

Moses being chosen by God to be the ruler of his people,  
will not prove that priesthood belonged to Adam's heir, or the  
*prime* fathers. *Locke.*

4. Excellent. It may, in this loose sense, perhaps admit,  
though scarcely with propriety, a superlative.

We are contented with  
Catharine our queen, before the *primest* creature  
That's paragon'd i' th' world. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

**TO PRIME.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To put in the first powder; to put powder in the pan of a  
gun.

A pistol of about a foot in length, we *primed* with well-  
dried gunpowder. *Boyle.*

*Prime* all your firelocks, fasten well the stake. *Gay.*

His friendship was exactly tim'd,  
He shot before your foes were *prim'd*. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. [Primer, Fr. to begin.] To lay the first colours on in paint-  
ing. A Gallicism.

**PRIMELY.** *adv.* [from *prime*.]

1. Originally; primarily; in the first place; in the first inten-  
tion.

Words signify not immediately and *primely* things them-  
selves, but the conceptions of the mind about them. *South.*

2. Excellently; supremely well. A low sense.

**PRIMENESS.** *n. f.* [from *prime*.]

1. The state of being first.

2. Excellence.

**PRIMER.** *n. f.*

1. An office of the blessed Virgin.

Another prayer to her is not only in the manual, but in  
the *primer* or office of the blessed Virgin. *Stillingfleet.*

2. [Primerius, Lat.] A small prayer book in which children  
are taught to read, so named from the Romish book of devo-  
tions; an elementary book.

The Lord's prayer, the creed and ten commandments  
he should learn by heart, not by reading them himself in his  
*primer*, but by somebody's repeating them before he can  
read. *Locke on Education.*

**PRIMERO.** *n. f.* [Spanish.] A game at cards.

I left him at *primero*

With the duke of Suffolk. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

**PRIMEVAL.** *adj.* [from *primævus*, Lat.] Original; such as was  
**PRIMEVOUS.** *adj.* [from *primævus*, Lat.]

1. Original; at first.

Immortal dove,  
Thou with almighty energy didst move  
On the wild waves, incumbent didst display  
Thy genial wings, and hatch *primeval* day. *Blackmore.*

All the parts of this great labrick change;  
Quit their old stations and *primeval* frame,  
And lose their shape, their essence, and their name. *Prior.*

**PRIMITIAL.** *adj.* [from *primitivus*, Lat.] Being of the first  
production. *Ainsworth.*

**PRIMITIVE.** *adj.* [from *primitivus*, Fr. *primitivus*, Lat.]

1. Ancient; original; established from the beginning.

Their superstition pretends, they cannot do God greater  
service, than utterly to destroy the *primitive* apostolical go-  
vernment of the church by bishops. *King Charles.*

David reflects sometimes upon the present form of the  
world, and sometimes upon the *primitive* form of it. *Burnet.*

The doctrine of purgatory, by which they mean an estate  
of temporary punishments after this life, was not known in  
the *primitive* church, nor can be proved from scripture. *Tillot.*

2. Formal; affectedly solemn; imitating the supposed gravity  
of old times.

3. Original; primary; not derivative: as, in grammar, a *primi-  
tive verb*.

Our *primitive* great sire, to meet  
His godlike guest, walks forth. *Milton.*

**PRIMITIVELY.** *adv.* [from *primitivus*.]

1. Originally; at first.

Solemnities and ceremonies, *primitively* enjoined, were af-  
terward omitted, the occasion ceasing. *Brewer.*

2. Primarily; not derivatively.

According to the original rule; according to ancient practice.

The purist and most *primitively* reformed church in the  
world was laid in the dust. *South's Sermons.*

**PRIMITIVENESS.** *n. f.* [from *primitivus*.] State of being origi-  
nal; antiquity; conformity to antiquity.

**PRIMENESS.** *n. f.* [from *primus*.] Affected niceness or formality.

**PRIMOGENIAL.** *adj.* [from *primogenitus*, Lat.] It should therefore have  
been written *primigenial*. Firstborn; original; primary;  
constituent; elemental.

The *primigenial* light at first was diffused over the face of  
the unshathen chaos. *Clarendon's Steps.*

It is not easy to discern, among many differing substances  
obtained from the same matter, what *primigenial* and simple  
bodies convened together compose it. *Boyle.*

The first or *primigenial* earth, which rose out of the chaos,  
was not like the present earth. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

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**PRIMOGENITURE.** *n. f.* [from *primogenitus*, Fr. from *primus* genitivus  
Lat.] Seniority; eldership; state of being firstborn.

Because the scripture affordeth the priority of order un-  
der Sem, we cannot from hence infer his *primogeniture*. *Brewer.*

The first provoker has, by his seniority and *primogeniture*,  
a double portion of the guilt. *Government of the Tongue.*

**PRIMOGENIAL.** *adj.* [from *primogenitus*, Fr. *primogenium*, Lat.] Ori-  
ginal; existing from the beginning.

Salts may be either transmutated or otherwise produced, and  
so may not be *primogenial* and immutable beings. *Boyle.*

**PRIMOGENIAL.** *n. f.* [from the adj.] Origin; first principle.

The *primogenials* of the world are not mechanical, but imper-  
matal and vital. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

**PRIMOGENIAN.** *n. f.* See **PRIMUM**, of which it is a species.

**PRIMOGENIATE.** *adj.* [from *primogenium*, Lat.] Original; ex-  
isting from the first.

Not every thing chymists will call salt, sulphur or spirit, that  
needs always be a *primogeniate* and ingenerable body. *Boyle.*

**PRIMOGENE.** *n. f.* [from *primogenitus*, Lat.] A plant.

The flower of the *primogene* consists of one leaf, the lower  
part of which is tubulose, but the upper part expands itself  
flat in form of a salver, and is cut into several segments;  
from the flower-cup, which is fistulous, arises the pointal,  
which, when the flower is decayed, becomes an oblong fruit  
or lusk, lying almost concealed in the flower-cup, and opens  
at the top, in which are contained many roundish seeds  
fastened to the placenta. *Müller.*

Pale *primogenes*,  
That die unmarried, ere they can behold  
Bright Phœbus in his strength. *Shakep. Winter's Tale.*

I would look pale as *primogene*. *Shakep. Henry VI.*

There followeth, for the latter part of January, *primogenes*,  
anemones, the early tulip. *Bacon's Essays.*

2. *Primogene* is used by Shakespeare for gay or flowery.

I had thought to have let in some of all professions, that go  
the *primogene* way to the everlasting bonefire. *Shakep.*

**PRINCE.** *n. f.* [from *princeps*, Fr. *princeps*, Lat.]

1. A sovereign; a chief ruler.

Cœlestial! whether among the thrones, or nam'd  
Of them the highest; for such of shape may seem  
Prince above princes. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. xi.

Forces come to be used by good princes, only upon necessity  
of providing for their defence. *Temple.*

Esau founded a distinct people and government, and was  
himself a distinct prince over them. *Locke.*

The succession of crowns, in several countries, places it  
on different heads, and he comes, by succession, to be a prince  
in one place, who would be a subject in another. *Locke.*

Had we no histories of the Roman emperors, but on their  
money, we should take them for most virtuous princes. *Addison.*</